

**Topic:** Port Modernization

**Problem:** Despite a global trend towards improving the sustainability of goods movement systems (often referred to “green logistics”), there is an absence of a hemisphere-wide network that facilitates the sharing, adoption, and implementation of environmentally sustainable and competitive practices, technologies, operations, and infrastructure. These and other voluntary practices can facilitate compliance with relevant international standards *and* advance sustainability of the goods movement system nodes—marine ports, vessels, trucks, trains, etc.—where standards do not necessarily exist or apply but where improvements can be made.

**Summit Goal/Commitment:** Agree to implement mandatory and/or voluntary International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), or any other relevant internationally- or regionally-recognized environmental sustainability standards for at least one port in each country by the next Summit.

**Justification:** The various nodes in goods movement are key economic contributors to expanding international trade. Sustainability practices contribute to environmental protection, economic competitiveness, as well as fostering social equity benefits.

- **Baseline:** There was no data found on how many countries in the region have ports that meet international environmental standards. Additional research is needed to learn about some examples of ports that exhibit these standards/best practices. Although international standards exist for some nodes in the goods movement system (e.g. IMO, ISO, etc.), ports, governments, communities, industries, and other authorities in the Western Hemisphere do not have an established network share information that help achieve economic, environmental and social sustainability.
- **Current Actions:** Existing networks, such as the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), can provide guidance and/or resources to establishing a network among countries of the Western Hemisphere that would help stakeholders share best practices and provide technical assistance in pursuit of the goal.

**Challenges:**

- The countries of the Americas vary in both economic ability and political will to exchange and implement already existing successful sustainable goods movement practices, infrastructure and technologies.
- In order to achieve this goal, it is vital that countries of the Western Hemisphere cooperate under a common incentive of ensuring environmental protection and public health with cost-cutting and efficient practices, infrastructure and technologies.
- Governments would need to identify and contribute to the implementation of appropriate training, infrastructure and technologies to successfully achieve sustainability of goods movement systems that comply with international environmental standards for improved performance and increased competitiveness.

**Summit of the Americas**  
**Goal Paper: Democracy and Human Rights**

D&HR 2

**Topic:** Civil Society Participation at the Summit

**Problem:** An active and vibrant civil society is essential to democracy for peace, security, and development in the hemisphere. However, the space for civil society's engagement with the governments in the region is shrinking, as some democratically-elected leaders have taken significant steps to limit dissenting voices via attempts to suffocate civil society. Civil society representatives have expressed a clear interest in having a defined, formal role at the Summits of the Americas. They are frustrated that they can observe and have side meetings, but they generally have no interaction with leaders or other representatives of Summit governments.

**Summit Goal/Commitment:** Establish a civil society public consultative mechanism for the Summit by 2018 to provide input on issues including but not limited to, violence and discrimination against historically marginalized groups as well as the effective access and delivery of public services.

**Justification:** Formal civil society engagement in the Summit process will help improve governments' ability to communicate and coordinate with civil society organizations on pressing issues ranging from eliminating violence and discrimination against vulnerable groups, to increasing access to and coverage of quality and efficient public services. A formalized mechanism between civil society and governments to discuss these issues, explore solutions, and increase collaboration and coordination among diverse stakeholders to develop comprehensive solutions provides the foundation of societal wellbeing and democratic participation.

- **Baseline:** There is no formal process by which civil society participates in the Summit, and a formal process for the private sector has only recently been implemented. In 2001, leaders called for civil society's participation in the Summit process, but the role remains undefined and contingent upon the extent to which the host country and chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) incorporates civil society dialogue into its agenda.
- **Current Actions:** This would improve upon the irregular engagement between civil society and governments at previous Summits, and build upon dialogues at OAS General Assemblies, the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the relevant rapporteurships. It would build on the Americas Partnership on Social Inclusion and Equality, the 2013 Ministers of Labor Declaration and Plan of Action on eliminating discrimination and harassment in the workplace, existing agreements on the elimination of racial and ethnic discrimination, and on women's empowerment. Senior State Department officials held a roundtable with U.S. civil society groups in May 2014 about the Summit.

**Challenges:**

- Some governments do not agree on the parameters for what encompasses "civil society," and include so-called social actors, making it difficult to identify and agree on an objective accreditation process.
- Such a mechanism could become large and unwieldy, as civil society groups have diverse views and may find it difficult to focus on a common agenda.
- Some governments may take measures to prevent or dictate participation of civil society organizations.
- It is unclear whether sufficient funding would be available for diverse civil society participation at the Summit.

**Summit of the Americas**  
**Goal Paper: Energy and Climate Change**

ECC 4

**Topic:** Marine Debris: Plastics

**Problem:** Approximately 1.4 billion pounds of solid waste per year enters the ocean. Non-biodegradable materials such as plastics and metals pose hazards in the marine environment to both wildlife and humans. These hazards include the risk of physical harm through entrapment, entanglement, accidental ingestion, and upon ingestion the potential transfer of harmful chemicals from the debris to the organism. The nature of plastic fragments allows them to concentrate toxic contaminants and serve as a vector for potentially harmful microbes, bacteria, and viruses, with the potential to contaminate marine organisms reaching human consumption though scientists have not yet linked marine debris with human health concerns. The global transport, environmental persistence, varied risks to marine organisms, and extreme difficulty in removing marine debris from the ocean – especially small plastic fragments – underpins the need for improved waste management that prevents debris at the source.

**Summit Goal/Commitment:** Reduce the solid debris that enters the oceans by establishing country-specific solid waste management programs that integrate existing formal and informal sectors, achieving 50 percent recycling rates by 2030.

**Justification:** This goal leverages the attention, commitment, and good will elicited from governments in the region at the “Our Ocean” conference, hosted by the Secretary of State. Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries have inadequate formal waste management programs, and uniquely extensive informal recycling systems estimated to include between 400,000 and 4 million scavengers, many of whom are children. Waste management solutions in LAC could incorporate multiple aspects of economic development (social inclusion, business development, innovation, micro-enterprise) while addressing a high priority environmental problem.

- **Baseline:** The EU established a binding commitment to 60 percent recycling rates by 2020.
- **Current Actions:** NGOs, IGOs, development banks and the private sector have developed numerous public-private partnerships that leverage existing formal and informal systems. One of these is the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling (IRR) a joint project of the IDB, the Fundación Avina, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Coca-Cola Company. IRR has implemented programs and projects in 12 countries in the region with a budget of \$8.4 million.

**Challenges:**

- Many countries in the region lack the basic infrastructure for collecting and managing municipal solid waste.
- Compliance with various environmental related regulations and international agreements is inconsistent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Renewed emphasis by leaders is necessary to elicit strong commitments to measurable increases in environmentally-sound waste management.
- Compliance with waste management programs among the public depends on behavioral change, which depends on robust educational campaigns.